

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

Chupong Kanchanalak
Praitun Kanchanalak

MUR 4530

SENSITIVE

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

I. ACTIONS RECOMMENDED

Take no further action with respect to Chupong Kanchanalak

or Praitun Kanchanalak and close the file with respect to those two respondents.

II. BACKGROUND

These matters under review concern the respondents' violations of key elements of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), which bar foreign nationals from making any political contributions or donations (2 U.S.C. § 441e(a)) and forbid anyone to make contributions in the name of another in connection with federal elections (2 U.S.C. § 441f).

On June 17, 1997, the Commission found reason to believe that Pauline Kanchanalak, her sister-in-law Duangnet Kronenberg, and her mother-in-law Praitun Kanchanalak had violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e and 441f in connection with contributions and donations to the Democratic National Committee ("DNC") and other political committees during the period 1992-1996. On

1 June 2, 1998, the Commission found reason to believe that Pauline Kanchanalak's husband
2 Chupong Kanchanalak had violated 2 U.S.C. §§ 441e and 441f in connection with this same
3 activity. This Office was able to serve the reason to believe documents on Pauline Kanchanalak
4 and Duangnet Kronenberg.

5 However, despite diligent efforts, this Office was unable to serve reason to believe
6 documents on Praitun or Chupong Kanchanalak. It appears that both of those respondents were
7 in Thailand at the times service was attempted, and there was no indication that either planned to
8 travel to the United States. The reason to believe materials related to Praitun Kanchanalak were
9 sent to an address in Virginia in July 1997, but they were returned, marked "Unclaimed—Return
10 to Sender." With regard to Chupong Kanchanalak, this Office sent the materials to an address in
11 Thailand obtained from the Department of Justice in November 1998. Unfortunately, we could
12 not confirm Chupong Kanchanalak's whereabouts or his receipt of these materials. The
13 Department of Justice was unable to provide a current address for Praitun Kanchanalak. Because
14 of respondents' unavailability, along with this Office's view that they were not the primary
15 orchestrators of the conduct at issue here, this matter did not proceed to the probable cause stage
16 as to Praitun or Chupong Kanchanalak. This Office therefore recommends that the Commission
17 take no further action against those two respondents.

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V. GENERAL COUNSEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.
- 2.
3. Take no further action with respect to Chupong Kanchanalak or Praitun Kanchanalak and close the file as to those respondents.
- 4.
5. Approve the appropriate letters.

Date 7/27/01


Lois G. Lerner
Acting General Counsel

Exhibits: